Meeting, held in New Delhi on 12th November 2005, several issues of concern to both sides were discussed. These *inter-alia* included the various non-tariff barriers faced by Indian Products in the US market. The two sides have agreed to establish Focus Groups in different areas including on tariff/non-tariff barriers/services that will meet on a regular basis. A doubling of bilateral trade in about three years time was also discussed.

**Rice Export**

742. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a ) the quantum of rice exported during the last three years, with Basmati and non-Basmati rice separately;

(b) the steps taken to improve export of rice, Non-Basmati rice in particular; and

(c) the target fixed for export of rice during the Tenth Plan period and the steps taken to achieve that?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The quantity of rice exported during the last three years are as under:—

(Quantity in tonnes)

| Year | Basmati Rice | Non-Basmati Rice |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 708793 | 4259077 |
| 2003-04 | 771491 | 2640572 |
| 2004-05 | 1126125 | 3645873 |

Source: DGCI&S

(b) The steps taken to improve export of rice include providing assistance to Indian exporters for undertaking publicity campaigns, mounting trade delegations abroad, participation in International fairs, buyer-seller meets and financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and reimbursement of certain WTO admissible costs on account of marketing and transport.

(c) Exports being dependent on a host of factors, including external, no targets as such are or can be fixed.